

**Transcript of an Oral History Interview in the collection of the
BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922**

Bob Gross: Miss Pat Woelk, we want to thank you for granting us this interview on the history of this house, the John H. Sams House, and your relationship with the family and this particular piece of property. And we'd like to start the interview by having you tell us how your family came [00:00:30] to be in Brevard County, where they came from, and how is it they actually came to settle here. If you could talk a little bit about that, please.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: The story that's always been told to me was that after the Civil War, which was in the early 70s, and they were having a very hard time. They had lost almost everything, they didn't have much property left, they didn't have any workers left, and no money either. [00:01:00] Some of my LaRoche uncles and my grandfather decided that they were going to come to Florida and try out something different. They came down to what they call The Narrows, which is down near Vero Beach. And at that time, my great-grandfather LaRoche, his second wife, was my great-grandfather Sams' sister.

Bob Gross: What was his first name, do you recall?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: James.

Bob Gross: James.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That's James LaRoche. [00:01:30] And he did not come then, but he came later. I think that you probably read my grandmother's story and that's the same story that I know, is that they were having a farewell dinner for my great-grandfather LaRoche and his wife and the youngest of the children that had not come down. And they made the decision, later that night that they would pool together [00:02:00] what they had and they would come down also. Within in a couple of months they did. Although when the Sams' came down, they came down to a place north of Eau Gallie. She said it was about a mile north. I'm never sure whether it was-

Bob Gross: Horse Creek.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Horse Creek or not, but it always sounded like that was what it was to me. And so they settled there and when they came there ... I'll have to back up a minute, because my great-grandfather's younger brother, Seabrook [00:02:30] Sams, came down with the LaRoche boys. And he and some of ... I guess the LaRoche boys, built this old house in Eau Gallie. So that when they came down, the house was framed in and ready to live in.

Bob Gross: Do you know where the lumber came for that house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No.

Bob Gross: No.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Except it probably didn't come from very far. Wasn't there a lumber mill in Melbourne or something at that time?

Bob Gross: Much later.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It was later.

Bob Gross: Much later, yeah.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: So I don't really know.

Bob Gross: [00:03:00] There may have been one at Titusville, at that period of time, but most of the houses, I think, came from either Daytona or Palatka.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Anyway, they tried to plant there and of course, Florida, gardening is backwards to everybody else's, because we have warm winters and terrible summers. So they didn't do very well. My great-grandfather said you couldn't grow cowpeas on that land it was so bad. [00:03:30] And if you couldn't grow cowpeas it was really bad. So they had a little boat and they found this place, this area. And it just looked like John's Island. It had tall trees and it made them think of home. My uncle Seabrook took out a homestead just to the south of us here, and then they made the decision to move up here.

Bob Gross: Do you know what they grew? Were they-- planters in South Carolina. Do you know-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I think that mostly [00:04:00] they grew rice and indigo. They grew a lot of indigo.

Bob Gross: Do you think they may have tried to do that here or did they just [inaudible 00:04:12]

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't think so.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I think that they were ... First of all, they were just trying to feed themselves. And then I think they ... That oranges were coming about. So they decided to get into that, I believe.

Bob Gross: Now you said that the old Sams house behind us here was [00:04:30] built in Eau Gallie. How did it come to be on this particular piece of property? And we're on -is this ... Known as Pine Island here?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No.

Bob Gross: It is not.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, this is not. This is the mainland.

Bob Gross: The mainland.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Pine Island is on the other side of the creek over there.

Bob Gross: Okay. But it's near Pine Island-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It is near Pine Island.

Bob Gross: On North Merritt Island.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bob Gross: On the western shore.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Western shore, yes.

Bob Gross: So how did the house come to be here?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well they had the house, and I always heard that they dropped the sides in and the roof down [00:05:00] and barged it up and used the floor for the barge.

Bob Gross: Oh.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well, you know...But when you look at the house close up, there are cuts in the lumber that doesn't exactly go with that story. So I don't really know what they did, except that they ... I do know that they barged it up and I think they used it for a barge. Probably, to get it up here and set it up and then the family moved into it.

Bob Gross: Do you know [00:05:30] how much land they had here originally?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I think was a full when they homesteaded, the full thing.

Bob Gross: The full 160 acres, quarter sectioned?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It may have been, but I'm not positive on that, but I'm sure they would've ...

Bob Gross: Now a second house was built, but that was built much later. Do you know-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, this is the second house. That's the new part.

Bob Gross: The new part.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: The new part was built in, I think ... Oh, dear. [00:06:00] I always get confused on this one. I believe it was right around 1890. It was before 1900.

Bob Gross: If I check the-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It may have been in the 80s, but I'm not positive.

Bob Gross: That early? But around 1890, you think?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, by then I'm sure it was built.

Bob Gross: And what did they do with the old house when they moved into the new house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They kept using it.

Bob Gross: For what purpose?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [00:06:30] Well, I guess they used it for bedrooms. There were three rooms in the house. And there was the middle room, which was the parlor, the dining ... Whatever. I'm not sure. They had a building off away from it, several feet, for a kitchen.

Bob Gross: A separate building?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes. Which I think was probably fairly traditional too. Wood frame houses. And they may [00:07:00] have used that as the dining room too.

Bob Gross: Was that building still in existence in your lifetime?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No.

Bob Gross: No.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I just heard about it.

Bob Gross: John Sams, John Hanahan Sams?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: He was also school superintendent?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: In the early days?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes, he was not the very first one, but he was, from what I understand, the first effective superintendent. [00:07:30] And he remained on that for about 25 years.

Bob Gross: Was he involved in any other politics or other-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well, he was a, I guess, a politically active person. He was always trying to get roads built and this done and that done. He never ... I don't think he ever ran for any public office. But he was interested in the education, so ... And at that time, Brevard County was a lot farther south. So he would go on horseback and boat and [00:08:00] however and be gone quite a while on his tour of the schools.

Bob Gross: What about his wife?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They were both—they were very Victorian. She was ...

Bob Gross: Very Victorian?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes. However, she was raised in a wealthy family and she had her own little handmaiden. So if she was sewing and dropped her needle, that little girl was there. But that little girl loved her very, very much [00:08:30] anyway, and she taught her how to read and do things like that. But she came down here, or after the war, probably still in South Carolina, and had to do everything herself.

Bob Gross: That must've been hard on her, having a-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: And so she had to ... She was young enough, I think, because she got married and ... I think it was 1863, during the war. So she was fairly young at that time. But she certainly was flexible enough that she learned how [00:09:00] to really, to work, to do everything, to make candles. They used to take the wax myrtle berries and make candles out of those. They always had a little kitchen garden. She would you know... Planted the beans and picked them and everything else and taught the children literature while she was doing it.

Bob Gross: And how many children did they have?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Eight all together.

Bob Gross: Eight. Did they all stay in this area or they scatter [00:09:30] out, do you think?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Later they did. Most of them stayed in this area, though. One of them married in this area but she ended up living in central Florida, the youngest of the girls.

Bob Gross: Do you know some of names?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: One of them lived in Jacksonville.

Bob Gross: Some of the names that they might be related today.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: There were ... The one that moved to the central Florida area, her name was Addie B, Adelaide Elizabeth. She married Fred Black and [00:10:00] he had been

... You'll find him in some of the records here, across the river. In fact, she lived across the river for a long time.

Bob Gross: His father was a reverend, I think?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't think so.

Bob Gross: No?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Not that one. No. I doubt seriously that that was the case.

Bob Gross: And what line are you descended from?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: John Sams.

Bob Gross: John?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: And his wife, Sarah Sams, who was a third or fourth cousin of my great-grandfather. He was from a generation [00:10:30] before her, but they all had big families then. And my grandmother was the oldest of the Sams children.

Bob Gross: Okay. And who did she marry?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: She married Ben LaRoche. He was about third down, I think. Third oldest in the LaRoche boys.

Bob Gross: And they settled just north of this piece of property?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes, they did. That's where they ended up. And my great-grandfather gave ... As the children got married, gave them ... [00:11:00] Or grew up, he gave them strips of land so that they were-

Bob Gross: Out of the original homestead?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Out of the original homestead.

Bob Gross: Do you know about what time, maybe, that they moved to that piece of property north of here?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Before this house was built.

Bob Gross: Before 1900.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. Because she had ... Her oldest daughter was born in 1892 or four. I can't remember which now. [00:11:30] She was 16 when she got married.

Bob Gross: Now which of their children are you descended from?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: The youngest. And her name was Celestine.

Bob Gross: Celestine?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: Who did she marry?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: She married ... His name was Robert Dingman. He had relatives in Rockledge that she had.

Bob Gross: And that was your father-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That was my father, yes.

Bob Gross: What ... Were they grove owners too? Or was there-?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, my grandfather had the orange ... I mean, he tended [00:12:00] orange groves. That's what they had there, yeah. That's what everybody had here. Only they were really pretty then. All kept them nice.

Bob Gross: What about pineapples? Were they ever into any other crops?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes, but I don't think ... But they probably ... What they did was they started the house and moved out, planting things. There were pineapples, I understand, a large number of pineapples were grown between here and about a half a mile south. [00:12:30] Whatever happened, whether they were frozen or blight or whatever, I don't know. But also my great-grandfather had some property on the south end of the island at Lotus. And I think they tried to grow them there too.

Bob Gross: We understand from the EEL people that now are managing this property, that they found a pineapple patch on the north end of the property here. And we were wondering if that was ... If you had any knowledge of that particular patch. No?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [00:13:00] Not a bit.

Bob Gross: There's still some growing wild up there.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't know. I'd never seen any.

Bob Gross: Okay. What did they do for like recreation in this area? Was there any?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Not very much. In the first place, you didn't have—Fred says they fished, but they also fished to eat. They had parties that ... [00:13:30] Neighborhood parties. And I was always remember my grandmother talking about going down to the Mayday picnics on Oleander Pointe, which you know where that is, in Cocoa. She said

sometimes the weather didn't cooperate and they had to spend the night instead of coming home.

Bob Gross: That was a big celebration.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, that was-

Bob Gross: For the whole river. What about sugar cane? A lot of people planted sugar cane-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: And had cane parties.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They did. [00:14:00] The LaRoches and the Sams' together had a lumber mill and they also a sugar cane out in out away ... More in the middle. Out whereabouts where the Crisafullis are living now.

Bob Gross: Oh, the island.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Where the Crisafullis were living, out Crisafulli Road. Because they owned that property too.

Bob Gross: Is that where the mill was, the lumber mill?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: As far as I know it was.

Bob Gross: And what was ... Did the mill have a name?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Not that I know of. It probably was the LaRoches or whatever. I don't know. Because all that was gone by the time I came along.

Bob Gross: Do you think that's where [00:14:30] they got the lumber for the second house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: There's a remote possibility they could've, but I don't know. This is pretty well-finished lumber in there. And I doubt if they did anything that finished.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: So the beaded boarding. Somewhere, Pensacola. I don't know why. That name just popped in my mind. But it might've come from northwest Florida. So I don't know.

Bob Gross: What about the religious community? What was their culture-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They were Episcopalians. There was no church, but my [00:15:00] great-grandfather saw to it that they were schooled in it. They had morning prayer every morning and evening prayer every night, and you better be there and you

better sit quietly. It's what my mother's oldest ... Only sister and the oldest one was ... That they always got her going to school because the school was down this way on the Seabrooks property. And she always got here just in time, had to sit and behave herself too.

Bob Gross: [00:15:30] What was your diet ... What do you think their diet was like and what was your diet like in the early days?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well mine was very general, just what we eat now, just about.

Bob Gross: But you had refrigeration?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Somewhat. Yeah, we had ice boxes. But we also had a garden. My grandfather was a ... He never really grew vegetables for the market, but he always said that was always ... "Well, this year I'm just going to grow enough for the family." However, [00:16:00] he supplied the whole neighborhood and sold some too.

Bob Gross: What sort of things?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Just anything, you know. Potatoes, tomatoes, okra, whatever. He planted it, he grew it. He was ... He had a dirty brown thumb because he was busy gardening and he was very good at it. He ... We always had fresh vegetables. And what wasn't fresh, they canned. We had chickens. We tried [00:16:30] turkeys, but the stupid things were always drowning themselves. That didn't work. I had ducks, which I gave proper names too, like Nicodemus and things like that. I'd cry all Saturday afternoon if they were going to eat one on Sunday, but Sunday it didn't look the same. So it tasted just as good. Usually we went to town on Saturday. And that was most of the day. Did the shopping so we would have fresh meat on Sunday, whether it was chicken or roast [00:17:00] beef or whatever and bring the ice home too for it.

So, this house, they wired for electricity in the REA program. We never had it next door.

Bob Gross: Was that in the 30s?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes, that's in the 30s. Probably about '34, '35, that they brought it up here.

Bob Gross: Did they do ... You said they fished some?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mainly that ... They did it for [00:17:30] recreation and also to get the food.

Bob Gross: What about shellfish? Were there shellfish here?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: There were, but I never heard them talking about eating the shellfish at all. There were mussels out there and clams, but they never ate them. And then in the winter, of course, they'd have coot and duck.

Bob Gross: They hunted?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. We never ... They never ate the wild animals while I was ... And I never heard of them eating them.

Bob Gross: As far as deer, you mean?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. Well, yes, if they could get a deer, they got a deer, [00:18:00] which they did on occasion, then that was a big celebration time. But they didn't eat possums and coons and the birds that were here.

Bob Gross: What about alligators?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Don't think so. They probably got rid of a few, but they didn't eat them. So--

Bob Gross: You're right on the edge of the NASA property here when The Cape came in and NASA ... Where [00:18:30] you affected? Was your family affected by that at all?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well I think probably more in a social sense. Maybe in an economic sense too, because they gave us ... Gave Fred work to do.

Bob Gross: That's your husband?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes. He did floor covering. And there was a very slow progress. There was a mini-boom during World War II, when Patrick, which was then Banana River, opened up, and a lot of people moved in here. Mainly, [00:19:00] they ... Must be barbecuing or something over there. Mainly they ... It was just amount--the numbers of people that came in. To give you a small example, when they went to rural routes in the 30s, when they closed up all the little local post offices, this place was box 33. The next time they did it, it was box 300.

Bob Gross: Wow.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Which meant north [00:19:30] of the 520.

Bob Gross: Right. Imagine how many were built.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: What about weather extremes in your lifetime and any stories that your family may have told? You had mentioned something about the ... One of the reasons they moved the old house here was because of the hurricanes and wet weather?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, well that was the story about why it was built up on this ridge, was because ... [00:20:00] Everything was flooded. It didn't take a tremendous amount of rain for that low spot to fill up there. And there's that low spot runs all the way through that way too.

Bob Gross: Were there many hurricanes?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I remember very few. Those ... That old house stood up under it. This old house stood up under them without any real damage to them either. [00:20:30] The freezes, it seems ... I think probably more memorable to me than anything, because these houses were cold. They were built for warm weather. Up off the ground and ... So that cold wind would come blowing through and those ... You'll get a frozen things on the floor.

Bob Gross: What was the coldest you can recall in your lifetime?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I remember some ... It was down in the high teens.

Bob Gross: High teens?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: And there was ice. We've had frozen water pipes in this house.

Bob Gross: What about the [00:21:00] grove? Did the grove suffer?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: The 95, 94, 95 freeze ... That you were talking about weather extremes. They'd had a freeze and six weeks later they had this second freeze, which is what really wiped things out because everything sprouted in between times. But the story was always that my grandmother and grandfather went to bed that night, covered with nothing but a sheet, and they woke up the next morning with one of my uncles beating on the door ... Why are they asleep when there was ice everywhere ... Where the trees, [00:21:30] you could hear them cracking as they froze. So overnight it went from warm weather to the freezing weather, and that's what wiped out so many of the trees. So then in a sense, they did have to start over then.

Bob Gross: So they had to start over as far as the grove.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, right. Very few trees survived. In fact, my Grandfather LaRoche took his family and went to South Carolina and tried it back there for a while, but then they came back. So--

Bob Gross: What's the highest water you can recall [00:22:00] as far as any flooding that may have happened in this area?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well it came up in about ten to 15 feet from the west side of the house.

Bob Gross: To the west side of the house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: But it wasn't--didn't stay there that long.

Bob Gross: Was that Hurricane Donna? There was a lot of rain.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: There was always ... All you could take was a good rainstorm some days.

Bob Gross: Really?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It just depended ... How much ... How wet the ground was, I guess, and how much water was going to absorb.

Bob Gross: What was it like as far as the peak of the orange [00:22:30] growing area? Was this all orange groves-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: North Merritt Island?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: Most of them gone now?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Most of them are gone or look like this.

Bob Gross: What were some of the other families, citrus families that were up here in this area?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well all of the relatives were involved in it, and then probably just about anybody that moved in here had a citrus grove of some sort. In the older times, a small citrus grove could support a family. [00:23:00] But then it got so it was impossible. So that's when they just tried to keep going, but there's just a point of no return for it.

Bob Gross: So you actually ran the grove here for a long time when you first-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It was still a grove when we moved here, yes. I guess it was probably within ... It would've been about ten years, we'd been married, was it before ... We were living here, but we didn't own the property, but it was owned by my mother [00:23:30] and her cousin. And we lived here. We took care of things, but we weren't responsible for the grove. But by the mid-70s anyway, grove owning was ... It was-

Bob Gross: Not economically worth it?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No. Just ... The whole process about it, I think, was ...

Bob Gross: I want to get back to the food.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Okay. All right, what did the family eat? They ate a lot [00:24:00] of swamp cabbage.

Bob Gross: Oh, they did?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: How did they prepare it?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They either made it into slaw or they boiled it.

Bob Gross: With anything?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Usually with some fatback or something. Fat pork.

Bob Gross: No beans or sweet potatoes in it?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No. Just plain cabbage. I never ate it with anything in it besides some seasoning. They grew most of what they ate, they had to buy you know... They would go to Titusville and get their supplies. [00:24:30] And then flour and sugar in large quantities and hope that the weevils didn't get in the flour. They did do their own baking. Other than growing those ... It was just normal ... They had pigs. Not when I came along, but they had had pigs before. They had a milk cow usually. That's about the end of it... I don't know. They didn't raise cattle. They had a milk cow and a horse [00:25:00] to do their work and get where they were going.

Bob Gross: They had cars?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They had cars as soon as they started getting cars.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They were getting cars.

Bob Gross: What types of transportation did they have in the early days?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Boats.

Bob Gross: Boats?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Sailboats and launches and ... We always had little boats when I grew up. We had a rowboat just to paddle around [00:25:30] in-

Bob Gross: Is that-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [inaudible 00:25:33] Couple of them were captained. They knew what they were doing. They ran big boats.

Bob Gross: Did they have to pack the oranges and ship them to Tallahassee-or Titusville to-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well they shipped ... They took them down to the river and somebody picked them up. I don't know where they went from there.

Bob Gross: But there was a packing house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: But there was a packing house here on the property, which was torn down when I was a child.

Bob Gross: So they had sailboats and [00:26:00] any steamboats, do you know?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't know. Not steamboats, but they had motor launches, I know that later.

Bob Gross: Motor launches.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: And you mentioned that they had horses?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They had a horse or two. They didn't ... They were mainly for working to pull the cart when they ... Because they used to have a horse and buggy that they ... Their transportation primarily.

Bob Gross: But they didn't really use them for pleasure? It was more for-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No.

Bob Gross: For work.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bob Gross: Any mules?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Probably, but I don't know.

Bob Gross: Right. [00:26:30] Okay, well thank you.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Okay, all right.

Fred Woelk: After they used it for a workshop?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: One room out of two.

Fred Woelk: Yes.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: And then they built a platform up top out of the walls, so that wood's still there.

Bob Gross: We saw that platform ... Do you see how the wood comes all the way down there? We thought that maybe they were two separate buildings-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't know why that's cut ... This is what I told you, this is a mystery to me.

Bob Gross: Yeah.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Because it just doesn't make a lot of sense with what I was told [00:27:00] to begin with, so I don't know why they cut it, because it's definitely cut there. All the way down. I think there's one on the other side too.

Vera Zimmerman: Maybe it was out when they moved it. They might've had to cut in half to move it.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They may have.

Fred Woelk: You told me when we first got married and moved in, in three different sections.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I did?

Fred Woelk: And put it back together again.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Brooksy told you that?

Fred Woelk: Cut it all the way through there--

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, but I'd heard also, Fred, that it dealt with the walls coming and the roof.

Bob Gross: Coming down.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Lowering the roof. And pushing in the walls.

Bob Gross: This is the old part of the Sams house. The tin roof [00:27:30] was ... That wasn't original from the [inaudible 00:27:34]

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, there were wood shingles, I believe.

Bob Gross: Wood shingles?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Cedar shingles, probably.

Bob Gross: Probably cedar or cypress?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bob Gross: Do you know when the tin roof was put on?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No.

Bob Gross: So that was before your time?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Before my time.

Bob Gross: Okay. You said that the house stood on wood piles?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: Wood pilings?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Pine trunks.

Bob Gross: Pine trunks, okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Stumps.

Bob Gross: And you believe those were original?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bob Gross: And you [00:28:00] all replaced them with what?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: With concrete blocks, because the termites were destroying everything.

Bob Gross: Were getting into it?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: And the time that you owned the house and lived here, the rooms were used for ...

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Not much.

Bob Gross: Not much. A workshop?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I always called them the company rooms. When company was coming, you'd put everything back there you didn't want to deal with right then. It was mostly for storage. [00:28:30] There were things that were still left in there that had been there for years. And then the water system was at the other end.

Bob Gross: We noticed some fixtures in the inside that looked like that they might be gas-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Acetylene gas.

Bob Gross: Is that what it was?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: And that was gone before my time too, except I know about it.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That they had acetylene gas for lights.

Bob Gross: Acetylene gas, okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: Do you know what the ... You said there was a cistern in the house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mm-hmm (affirmative). That's right back through there. We can [00:29:00] see that later, where it was.

Bob Gross: On the north side.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: North side. Right just outside of the kitchen. Which we still were using until one day Fred looked in it and decided we weren't going to use that anymore. Never look in a cistern.

Bob Gross: Now when you moved into the newer part of the house, you remodeled the kitchen, or you added the kitchen?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, the kitchen was there. It was existing. And apparently, it had been a wraparound [00:29:30] porch. And they closed it off and made that end the kitchen. So that was the kitchen when I grew up and there was ... Before the electricity they had a wood stove, which drafted into the chimney. And then they had a kerosene stove they used in the summer, which is what we did at our house next door.

Bob Gross: Now you said the kitchen was in a closed in porch. Do you think ... So it wasn't originally built as [00:30:00] part of the house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I'm sure they were still using the outdoor kitchen.

Bob Gross: The old one?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: When they first built this house.

Bob Gross: So it was subsequent.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: So it was after that that they did.

Bob Gross: Maybe after John Sams died.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, because he died in 24.

Bob Gross: 24?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It was before then.

Bob Gross: Before then.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: We were looking at this porch too, and it looked, from the inside, that originally, there was just a very tiny porch over the two front doors and that this porch was added on later. Did-?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't [00:30:30] think so.

Bob Gross: You don't think so?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, this was ... It was closed in. I remember when it was closed in in the 30's, but the porch was always long and huge.

Bob Gross: It was always there?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. We had to replace parts of it, which may be why you're thinking it was very narrow.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Or very small. But this is the way I always knew it, with these very wide steps. But it was also ... It was closed in later.

Bob Gross: It wasn't screened in originally?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mm-mm (negative).

Bob Gross: [00:31:00] There were screen doors on the-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: There were screen doors and screen windows on every door and every window that ... They were still there even after they screened in the porch, because up until the Navy started spraying, you just would get carried away with mosquitoes here. Still can on occasion.

Bob Gross: The shingles on the newer house, those are original from when it was built in-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: The metal shingles, [00:31:30] I don't know.

Bob Gross: As far as you know, they're original?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They ... That's all I remember, were the metal shingles there.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: And I think they might've been on the porch, but I'm not sure. I can't remember. I just remember it from my childhood things that was here. And have been here. All along. And they used to do things with it, but I don't know. Those little things with the cones down there, what do they do with those?

Bob Gross: Well they made ... The Indians made [00:32:00] flour.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That's right.

Bob Gross: What did you call it?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: A coontie fern.

Bob Gross: Coontie fern. It was here you think when the Sams-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes. That's what I've always heard.

Bob Gross: First saw this property.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That it was there. I'm just having with an ant right now.

Bob Gross: And this avocado tree.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That was bearing when I was little, but there was one there and one here. There's the stump from it. And one up there. The freezes killed most of those. And drought.

Bob Gross: What about the magnolias? Where did they scatter?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [00:32:30] They were right here. Right here. Dig down here you'll probably run into some hard old roots from it.

Bob Gross: And the grove was here and went all around the house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: This is the house-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They planted very close to the house.

Bob Gross: The house stood in the middle of the grove. And where was the kitchen garden?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't know. It'd been close to the house, so maybe down that way somewhere.

Bob Gross: In your time, you said you grew in the [inaudible 00:32:58]

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Oh yeah, we did down here.

Bob Gross: Okay. [00:33:00] Let's walk around the north side of the house.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That mango there. Look where it's dropped down, Fred.

Fred Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: That was a mango?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Fred Woelk: Big thing.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: A baby mango and it couldn't take the cold either.

Bob Gross: What other types of fruit did you have? Any like key limes or ...

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well that was later. They had kumquats. [00:33:30] They didn't have much of anything except oranges and grapefruits to sell. We have the chicories now everywhere and oak trees. And as far as I know, the old kitchen was right out here in this area. Also when I grew up there were guavas here. And those have gotten killed off too.

Bob Gross: Did they can those?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Oh, yes. Made jelly, sold it to people on the river. [00:34:00] And they made straw hats out of palmetto.

Bob Gross: So in your lifetime you've never done anything to the old house but put the blocks-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: Replaced the pilings?

Fred Woelk: Replaced some of the siding.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, you did have to do that.

Fred Woelk: Yeah, a lot of siding and stuff on screens several times.

Bob Gross: What about the sills? I noticed that there's a gap between the floor joists and the sills. Did they ... Were they replaced?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't think so.

Fred Woelk: I might've done one of these. This, I think I did this one.

Bob Gross: But not underneath?

Fred Woelk: No. No. [00:34:30] I did put some rafters across.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Underneath, yeah.

Fred Woelk: I did that.

Bob Gross: Right. Level it out.

Fred Woelk: Well, yeah. Give it some more support because it was giving away.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I remember when this tree came up.

Bob Gross: What about this hole that's over here? Do you know what that was?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. That was one of Florida's finest. Those little gopher turtles.

Bob Gross: That was a gopher turtle?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. Or as they called them, box critters.

Bob Gross: Was there a trash pit or like a burning barrel?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [00:35:00] I had a burning barrel right down [inaudible 00:33:02], but no, the trash was ... They used to dump down there.

Bob Gross: Near the river? Or in the slew?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Not that far. Just near the edge. Not in the slew on the other side.

Bob Gross: The other side.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Or you can't really tell now where the other side is, can you?

Bob Gross: Where those concrete foundations?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It's on the other side of that.

Bob Gross: Was that like a barn or a-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That was a barn.

Bob Gross: For a tractor?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: For tractors and spray rigs and all that equipment.

Bob Gross: Do you have any idea when that was built?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: In the early 30's.

Bob Gross: Early 30's? [00:35:30] And the packing house was south of that?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes. The packing house was right through there, where those trash stuff has gone up. Brazilian peppers. And that was torn down. There was another little car garage over there.

Bob Gross: A car garage?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bob Gross: Where was the road, go around the slew?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well, yes, because if you go down that way, around that way.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: This is where the cistern was.

Bob Gross: Right here?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Fit up underneath there.

Bob Gross: Underneath?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [00:36:00] Yeah, and most of it's down there now. So if you start digging down there you're going to find ...

Bob Gross: Was it brick or concrete?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Concrete.

Fred Woelk: Brick on concrete.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, it was brick too.

Fred Woelk: Yes. Brick. The line right there is where they ended up-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Most of what we did ... We were getting ready to do a big deck around here when they sold the property, and so that was the end of that.

Bob Gross: These pilings under the main house were replaced in the 30's?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: In the early 30's, yes.

Bob Gross: They were wood piles too?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [00:36:30] They were pine. And I still think there's one right by the steps, but I don't think you pulled out the one, did you? I think there's one up under by the front steps there. Not sure.

Bob Gross: Was anything done upstairs in the old house? Was there a loft or anything?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't know.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: There must've been there, I don't know. [00:37:00] We put ... Tried to keep ... The squirrels lived in there for a while.

Bob Gross: Oh, is that why the screen and the metal patches?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. Probably a snake or two.

Fred Woelk: You ever come by the house or something you can get a picture of the original stump that was underneath here.

Bob Gross: Yeah, we'd like to do that.

Fred Woelk: You might want to do that.

Bob Gross: Right. That and the-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Take some pictures.

Bob Gross: The picture of your [inaudible 00:37:22] and your grandfather.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't know why that washed out the way it did, but it did.

Bob Gross: From the gutter above there.

Fred Woelk: [00:37:30] Yeah. [inaudible 00:37:31]

Martha "Pat" Woelk: We had ... My uncle ... The last of my uncle closed off this end of the kitchen and made a bathroom out of it. So you didn't have to go upstairs all day.

Bob Gross: Was there any ... There was only one bathroom upstairs?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: Was there ever an outhouse in your life?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Oh, yeah. Down there.

Bob Gross: They had to go that far-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yep.

Bob Gross: Or that was a separate ...

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It was ... The outhouse was down that far. It was ...

Bob Gross: By the shed?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. It was a good half a block away.

Bob Gross: [00:38:00] Really?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: And that ... This porch ... There was a porch here, so that they could have the privacy of going down there and not knowing where everybody was going, I guess.

Bob Gross: Well, they had night jars.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Oh, yes.

Bob Gross: But in the ...

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I've got a couple of those I'll bring back too.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Still around.

Bob Gross: You had an oil furnace at one time?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yes.

Bob Gross: Was that for cooking-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [00:38:30] No.

Bob Gross: Or just for heating?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, that was just for heating.

Bob Gross: Just for heating.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Bob Gross: Now your uncle, you said, closed in this part of the porch?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Well, it was closed in ... We closed it off from the kitchen and made a bathroom out of it.

Bob Gross: But it had been part of the kitchen?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It had been part of the kitchen. In fact, this is the washing machine, was down here.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: You know, back those big old ones. What was that electric motor? Do you remember what that motor is, Fred?

Fred Woelk: Pardon?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That motor?

Fred Woelk: Oh, I'm not sure.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It looks like the ...

Bob Gross: Where was the [00:39:00] well that ... In your time?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Back over there. Where those pipes are.

Bob Gross: Where the cistern is, you mean?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, farther down near the end of that house.

Bob Gross: Okay. There's a well there today?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: You put that one in?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, but that's ... It doesn't go straight down. It goes down and over now. Because it's out there. About ten or 15 feet away from the house.

Bob Gross: Oh, okay. That's where it actually goes down.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That's where the good one is. I can't-

Fred Woelk: Might've been off [00:39:30] of [inaudible 00:39:30] or something.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That big piece of concrete down there, I think, was where the original washing machine motor lived.

Bob Gross: Now what about septic tanks today?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Here.

Bob Gross: And you had that put in?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No. That was all in-

Fred Woelk: Two of them. [inaudible 00:39:46]

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It's a very large septic tank too.

Bob Gross: Two of them?

Fred Woelk: Yeah.

Vera Zimmerman: I wanted to ask you about that-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Here's that smaller one, right here. No, that's not either. Is that-

Fred Woelk: [inaudible 00:39:55] close together.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Is that it, Fred?

Fred Woelk: [00:40:00] No, that's a big old stump, isn't it?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Isn't that part of it? We didn't take the whole thing, did we?

Fred Woelk: That's part of the stump right there.

Bob Gross: Oh, right there? That was one of the pilings to the house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It might've been.

Bob Gross: Oh, great.

Fred Woelk: Yeah.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Now these are from that tree right here.

Vera Zimmerman: What vine is that with the yellow flowers on it?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yellow thunbergias is all I know it's called.

Vera Zimmerman: Ah, thunbergia. Okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It's all around there, isn't it?

Vera Zimmerman: Beautiful.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: Now what about this tree here?

Vera Zimmerman: Monkey puzzle tree. It's dead.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, it is. It's one of those ... What [00:40:30] is the name of that?

Vera Zimmerman: Monkey puzzle? No? Xanthia?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It's one of these common things that are around here that ...

Bob Gross: Kind of elm.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That just grow up and get in your way. Hello there, butterfly. Zebra. That's nice to see. The butterflies are still there. I don't know what this big ... All these stumps are, except this is what was under the house, I think.

Bob Gross: Were there any other out buildings because the packing house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: The packing [00:41:00] house.

Bob Gross: The garage.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Garage.

Bob Gross: The outhouse. No other tool sheds or-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, they kept the tools in the barn.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Fred Woelk: Wasn't there a big tree at one time? About collapsed I think was what ...

Martha "Pat" Woelk: This was it.

Fred Woelk: Might be part of the wood.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: [inaudible 00:41:22]

Bob Gross: There's ants right here.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't know what that is, Fred, I really don't.

Bob Gross: What's the funniest thing that ever happened out here?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Oh, dear. [00:41:30] I don't know.

Bob Gross: That you can talk about.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: I don't know. I can't think. Is the armadillos still around?

Fred Woelk: This looks like part of the stump right here.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: It does? Okay. That, I think, is.

Fred Woelk: That piece is.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: 'Cause we cut that much off of it and that thing was way down the hill.

Fred Woelk: [inaudible 00:41:\$7] half of it is all the rest in there.

Bob Gross: What timeframe did you do that?

Fred Woelk: Pardon?

Bob Gross: What timeframe-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That was about a year or so before we moved, wasn't it?

Bob Gross: So the in 50's?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Changed about 67, 90, [00:42:00] we changed that out.

Bob Gross: In the 90's, okay.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Oh, my poor, poor old thing finally bit the dust. Yes.

Vera Zimmerman: What was that?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Wisteria.

Vera Zimmerman: Oh.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Must've gotten pruned one time too many, I don't know.

Bob Gross: What about this cable under the house?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Where did you find that, Fred?

Fred Woelk: I think that was there.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Wasn't it down in the barn [00:42:30] or something?

Fred Woelk: Yeah, I might've pulled it up and helped pull out those pilings. Those wood pilings. Put them on the back of the truck and jerked it out.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Fred Woelk: After I dug a big hole. That wasn't easy. Those things were down maybe four feet or more.

Bob Gross: Really?

Fred Woelk: Yes, sir.

Bob Gross: These cedar trees are native.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah. I brought this one up from the river when it was about that high.

Vera Zimmerman: Oh.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That would've been in the late 50's.

Bob Gross: Did you use the hickory nuts [00:43:00] for anything?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Just ate them. They used to be-

Fred Woelk: Squirrels liked them.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, squirrels loved them.

Bob Gross: You ate them too, though?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, they're awfully hard to fix.

Bob Gross: What did you do? How did you do that?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They used to make bread with them. You know like you make pecan bread and nut bread? So they'd make hickory bread. I just enjoyed them once in a while.

Bob Gross: Did you roast them? Is that how you-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: No, we just ate 'em raw. We hammered them and picked 'em out and ate them, but that's a lot of hard work. [00:43:30] Very hard. Still in ants? Still ants. They

love you. Like they do me. In fact, there was an orange tree right in here. I think it was. But they planted right up to the house. Make the best of all this. I'm still amazed at all that you found out here. How far did you have to go to find that stuff?

Vera Zimmerman: It was within-

Bob Gross: 100 centimeters.

Vera Zimmerman: [00:44:00] It was with ... We found pottery 20 centimeters.

Fred Woelk: [inaudible 00:44:04]

Vera Zimmerman: Wow.

Bob Gross: Deeper than that.

Vera Zimmerman: But we found it deeper. That's-

Bob Gross: Near the surface.

Vera Zimmerman: From his close as 20 centimeters, all the way down to one meter.

Bob Gross: What's this here?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: That looks like weed plot. A while there was also a very large jacaranda [00:44:30] tree. There was hickory here at one time. One of the storms, I think about 49 or 50, crashed into that window. They broke that window and had to replace that one. Then we had a jacaranda there that didn't like cold weather. Ended up with the oak tree that's coming up and going.

Bob Gross: There was acetylene in the old house. Did they ever have that in the new house for lights [00:45:00] that you know of?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: They did? Both houses?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, then they used the track for the electricity. You can still see it in the hallway part where you go upstairs. Where it was, because there was no light there.

Bob Gross: And you said there was a bathroom upstairs? How did they get water-

Martha "Pat" Woelk: They converted the bedroom into a bathroom.

Bob Gross: How did they get the water up there? Was there artesian?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: We had a windmill.

Bob Gross: The windmill?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Yeah, they had a windmill when I grew up. Now what they did before that, I don't know.

Bob Gross: It [00:45:30] would raise water up that high?

Martha "Pat" Woelk: In fact, I think that might've been ... I think they put that bathroom in in the late 20's.

Bob Gross: Late 20's.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: About the time they put the windmill in.

Bob Gross: Were there any other wells dug around for the groves?

Fred Woelk: There was an artesian well put on

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Right out here there was one, but they blocked that up because it kept ...

Fred Woelk: County did it.

Martha "Pat" Woelk: County or the [crosstalk 00:45:52]

Bob Gross: St. John's water [inaudible 00:45:54]

Martha "Pat" Woelk: Up to St. John's, I think, to ...

Fred Woelk: Yeah.

Bob Gross: Okay.

Vera Zimmerman: Okay.